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ing problems facing the University at Buffalo. Money raised through alumni contributions has been used for such purposes as student financial aid, moot court programs, sponsorship of student internship and faculty research, financing student journals, the purchase of essential equipment and the funding of the trial technique courses. You have only one law school to thank for where you are today. Please keep this in mind when contacted by our fund-raisers this fall. ■

David E. Parker '77

Convocation Explores Regional Economy

To help practitioners take advantage of opportunities that are bound to arise in the 1990s as Buffalo's economy continues to develop and change, the Alumni Association's convocation committee designed a comprehensive program that examined five relatively new legal specialties: international trade, health care, real estate, environment and technology.

The 1989 event was held in the Center for Tomorrow. Margaret Lillis-Snajczuk, an associate in the firm of Saperston & Day, chaired the committee of volunteers. The program, called "Directions for the 1990s: The Impact of Buffalo's Changing Economy on the Legal Community," attracted more than 200 people.

Lauren D. Rachlin, of the Buffalo firm of Kavinoky & Cook, outlined basic concepts of international transactions. There are an increasing number of joint venture agreements involving U.S. and foreign firms. Rachlin pointed out, and the complexities of various laws in international affairs require careful attention. Letters of credit, he noted, are commonly used and "it is critically important to pay attention to the wording of the operative paragraph of letters of credit."

He pointed to prospects of increased foreign investment in the United States

as underscoring the need to pay special attention to customs regulations, U.S. Commerce Department reporting requirements and immigration concerns.

Ellen Yost, of Saperston & Day, continued the theme of foreign trade, but in a U.S.-Canadian context. In examining the implications of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, she noted that there is expected to be freer movement of investments, services and businesspersons between the two nations.

"The U.S. prior to the free trade agreement did not generally restrict investment," Ms. Yost said. "Canada, however, had a history of restrictions." The dropping of many of those barriers will have a significant impact on the two trading partners, who already have the largest bilateral trade relationship in the world — \$170 billion in 1986.

Ellen Weissman, of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear, spoke about the increasingly active legal field of provider and supplier services in health care. Although the field is heavily licensed and regulated, health care is attracting increasingly greater activity and interest. Weissman noted, for example, that the area of patient planning has involved such issues as "living wills" and other health

care declarations. While there is a case law in New York State that encourages the use of living wills, she said there is no statute yet on the books. The Governor's Task Force on Life and the Law has endorsed a power of attorney bill — or "health care proxy" — over the idea of living wills, but neither has been enacted.

Professor Robert I. Reis, of UB Law School, predicted that opportunities for further commercial and office space development in Western New York will be bright. The attraction for real estate investors, he noted, is getting stronger, especially as plans unfold for the vitalization of the Great Lakes waterfront.

Alice J. Kryzan, of Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, examined the rapid and sometimes radical changes in environmental law requirements. It is not unusual, she said, to encounter environmental covenants in property transactions where, for example, a grantor would seek to retain the right to re-enter the land to deal with environmental remedial needs. The question of environmental suitability, she said, stands out as a major focus of land development today.

Tricia T. Semmelhack, of Saperston & Day and the recently established Tech-Venture Law Center, noted that techno-



Alice J. Kryzan speaks at the Alumni Convocation.

logical developments have accelerated interest in the fields of licensing and protection law. Computer software programs, for example, join the somewhat familiar field of technological works that can be guarded by copyright protection.

Licensing is also another active field, especially with regard to technology transfers where intellectual property rights may be licensed out with protection against infringement claims. She pointed to some of the research centers based at UB as examples of "compelling evidence" that the Buffalo area is going to be a successful participant in technological transfer spinoffs.

The theme of the convocation was set by Dr. Andrew J. Rudnick, president of the Greater Buffalo Development Foundation, who discussed major trends in Buffalo's economy. ■

COMING SOON!

"Marriage, Divorce and Death: The Impact on Business and the Professions" is the topic for our 1990 convocation. The program will be held on Saturday morning, March 10, at the Center for Tomorrow. Please plan to attend! ■

Judge Curtin Wins 1989 Jaeckle Award

As he stepped to the podium in the Center for Tomorrow on March 11, U.S. District Judge John T. Curtin, UB Law Class of 1949, beamed the smile that he often flashes when he crosses the finish line in one of the many races he runs every year. This time, Judge Curtin was being honored by UB Law School, which presented him with the 1989 Jaeckle Award — one of the most distinguished citations of the legal profession.

"The racing world doesn't give many of



Judge Curtin displays his Jaeckle Award plaque.

these," Judge Curtin said, smiling at President Steven B. Sample, who had just read the Jaeckle Award inscription: "A courageous man of conscience who cares deeply about civil rights and human dignity."

Dr. Sample joined Law School Dean David B. Filvaroff, University Provost William R. Greiner, Alumni Association officers and members, faculty and friends in honoring the judge at the award luncheon that followed the 13th Annual Alumni Convocation. The morning-long symposium focused on the topic "Directions for the 1990s: The Impact of Buffalo's Changing Economy on the Legal Community."

"I can't think of any award I'd appreciate more," Judge Curtin told the gathering. A federal judge of 21 years, Judge Curtin praised the Buffalo legal community and recalled advice espoused by the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo.

"I thank my family and friends and also the attorneys in the Buffalo courts," Judge Curtin told the audience. "The Buffalo Bar has been distinguished by the vigorous representation it manifests in court during the day and by the fact that at the end of the day friendship is maintained

after the confrontation ends."

Judge Curtin recounted advice from Justice Cardozo, especially Cardozo's suggestion that "the human equation not be omitted" from the courts of justice.

That very sensitivity has been cited as among Judge Curtin's contributions to the legal community in Western New York. He has been in the forefront of some of the most controversial issues on the federal court dockets — ranging from school desegregation to affirmative action — and his handling of those issues has been widely lauded. His continued handling of the Buffalo schools' desegregation efforts has been credited with helping to pave the way for the city's development of an outstanding network of "magnet schools." And the ability of blacks, Hispanics and women to gain public jobs in such areas as police and fire service has been significantly improved in the wake of Judge Curtin's affirmative action decisions.

As the most recent recipient of the Jaeckle Award — which is named for UB Law School's nationally distinguished alumnus Edwin F. Jaeckle — Judge Curtin joined a select group of only 12 previous honorees. ■